(b) if so, the number of such projects during 1998-99 and the production capacity;

(c) the number of these projects during 2002-03 alongwith the production capacity; and

(d) the percentage of power generation out of the installed capacity of these power generation projects during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) During the year 1998-99, there were ten (10) nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 1840 MWe.

(b) During the year 2002-03, there were fourteen (14) nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 2720 MWe.

(c) The percentage share of nuclear power in terms of total installed capacity in the country was about 2% in the year 1998-99 and 2.6% in the year 2002-03.

Exodus of BARC Scientists

2944. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(d) whether the service conditions of the BARC provide that if any employee leaves the service within three years, he has to give approximately one lakh rupees as compensation;

(e) whether despite such service conditions, a number of highly educated young scientists had left the BARC during the bond period by paying the compensation;

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Government have taken any measures to check the exodus of the scientists of BARC; and

(h) if so, the details thereof stating the reasons for imposing three years bond?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJE): (a) The bond obiligation of rupees one lakh is provided in the terms of conditions of appointment only in respect of Scientific dficers appointed through BARC Training School.

(a) No sir. During the last five years only 19 out of 700 such Scientific Officers have left service during the bond period.

(b) The reaons for leaving have been stated to be personal by the officers concerned.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise in view of the negligible number of resignations as compared to the number of Scientific Officers appointed.

Indo-US Nuclear cooperation

2945. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding cleaning of bottlenecks for Indo-US nuclear cooperation;

(b) if so, the details of assistance; and

(b) the help on the space front to be rendered by NASA and National Optical Astronomy Observatory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(j) The mutually beneficial cooperation covers some areas pertaining to nuclear safety.

(k) In 1997, a joint MOU has been signed between Department of Space (DOS) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA for cooperation in the areas of earth and atmospheric sciences. It includes exchange of satellite data and carrying out joint research projects in areas of mutual interest. The MOU has been renewed in 2002.